

In The Claims

| What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparation of 10-oxo-10, 11-dihydro-5H-dibenz [b,f] azepine-5-carboxamide (oxcarbazepine) via intermediate 10-methoxy-5H-dibenz[b,f]azepine-5-carbonyl chloride, comprising the following steps:

- a) Preparation of an intermediate 10-methoxy-5H-dibenz[b,f] azepine-5-carbonyl chloride, from 10-methoxyiminostillbene using bis (trichloromethyl) carbonate (BTC) triphosgene with organic base / organic solvent;
- b) Conversion of above intermediate to 10-methoxy-5H-dibenz[b,f] azepine-5-carboxamide using ammonia and with suitable solvent;
- c) Formation of oxcarbazepine from step (b) using Bronsted acid in an appropriate organic solvent at a suitable temperature between 25- 80°C. preferably at 50 to 70 °C; and,
- d) Isolation using organic solvent.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein at step (a) organic base is slowly added to the solution for a period of 3-24 hrs, maintaining a temperature at 10°C, after completion of reaction, a resultant and mixture is allowed to rise to room temperature, followed by separation of organic layer, and distilled to get crude intermediate, and purified using organic solvent.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1-&-2, wherein the ammonia gas is purged till the reaction completion, distilled the solvent, added water, followed by cooling at room temperature to isolate intermediate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1~~the above~~ claims, wherein the solvent selected is from the group consisting of: chlorinated aliphatic hydrocarbons solvent, /aromatic hydrocarbons solvent, and/or aprotic solvent, in the preparation of carbonyl chloride,

Claim 5 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein chlorinated aliphatic solvents are selected from the group consisting of: such as methylene dichloride, chloroform, ethylene dichloride, 1,1,1,- trichloroethane, and trichloroethylene.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the solvent aromatic hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of toluene, xylene, and chlorobenzene.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the aprotic solvents are selected from the group consisting of: Dimethyl formamide, Dimethyl acetamide, N-methyl pyrrolidine, and acetonitrile.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 & 2 wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic amines and/or aromatic tertiary amines.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 above claims, wherein the molar ratio of 10-methoxy iminostilbene to BTC is 1:0.34 - 0.5, and the molar ratio with base is 1:1-1.5.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of: acetone, methyl cellulose, methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, and dimethylformamide.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Bronsted acid is selected from the group consisting of: p-toluene sulfonic acid and cationic resins.

Claim 12 (new): A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ammonia gas is purged till the reaction completion, distilled the solvent, added water, followed by cooling at room temperature to isolate intermediate.

| Claim 13 (new): A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein the organic base is
selected from the group consisting of aliphatic amines and aromatic tertiary amines.